



## Looking for Members to Participate in Smart Water Heater Controller Pilot Program

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is looking for members interested in participating in the Aquanta Smart Water Heater Controller pilot program—and *it could be you!* This pilot program allows Todd-Wadena to test Wi-Fi load management, a technology to better help us serve you.

The Aquanta Water Heater Controller works with your existing electric water heater to bring it out of the basement or utility room and puts it into the palm of your hand! You can control and adjust your water

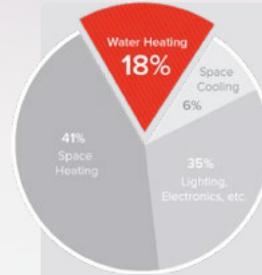
heater through an app—it only heats water when you need it!

By monitoring and managing your water heater usage, Aquanta offers

cost savings and intelligent controls all through your mobile device! The Aquanta controller connects to your Wi-Fi and is all managed through the app.

If you are interested in participating in Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative's Aquanta Smart Water Heater Controller Pilot, please contact Allison at (218) 631-3120 or at [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) to see if you are eligible. You must be enrolled in a water heater control program to participate.

A Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Energy Management Technician will need to access your water heater to install the Aquanta controller and associated sensors.



**SAVE MONEY AND AVOID MAINTENANCE HEADACHES**

**CONVENIENT STATUS & CONTROL FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE**



**MATCH YOUR WATER HEATING TO YOUR SCHEDULE**



## Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

**GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP**



**Tess Jones, Verdale**  
Daughter of Matt & Alicia Jones  
*Dakota Wesleyan University-Elementary Education*



**Ryan Knoll, Bertha**  
Son of Jason Knoll & Karen Knoll • *Anderson University—Cybersecurity*



**Makayla Hillukka, Menahga**  
Daughter of Aaron & Elizabeth Hillukka  
*University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, Communication Studies, Pre-Law*

**POWER-UP NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**



**Melissa Wattenhofer Sebek** • *St. Cloud State University—Special Education*

### 2021-2024 Work Plan

To provide our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) follows a comprehensive work plan. These work plans are typically four years long and encompass upgrades and maintenance to keep the system running top notch. The Cooperative is currently on the first year of a Four-Year Work Plan that runs from 2021 through 2024.

During this four-year timeframe, TWEC is preparing for a continual annual energy growth of 1 percent. This growth is attributed to an increase in residential, small commercial, and agricultural usage in the rural areas of our service territory. Our distribution infrastructure is increasing at an average annual rate of 5.01 percent.

The work plan is based on current and forecast conditions including growth patterns and the status of our distribution facilities. Projects will address changes in system growth, aging infrastructure, and AMI technologies. Major projects will focus on updating three-phase lines, single-phase lines, and substations, along with sectionalizing equipment. These projects will also improve TWEC's voltage drops that can occur while rerouting power during outages.



Work plan projects include a wide variety of items: new service line extensions, distribution line installations, conversions and line changes, new substations, substation changes, transformers and meters, service capacity increases, sectionalizing equipment, regulator equipment, capacitor equipment, pole replacement, conductor replacements, security lights, load management/SCADA, and load management equipment.

One of our largest projects is the construction of a new Leaf River Substation. The new 34.5 kV to 12.5 kV 5/7 MVA substation will be built adjacent to the existing substation. Leaf River is one of the older substations currently on TWEC's system. The new design will include provisions for a future circuit switcher that will improve the Cooperative's ability to back feed substation feeders during peak conditions.

Outlining and then implementing a detailed Four-Year Work Plan allows Todd-Wadena to provide our members with the reliable service you've come to expect. We appreciate your support and patience as we tackle our upcoming work plan projects.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO &  
General Counsel

### Board Minutes

*Highlights from the April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regular board meeting:*

- CEO Dan Carlisle attended a CEO conference in April where he moderated a round table discussion on cooperative/attorney relationships.
- Carlisle presented the West Central Telephone Association (WCTA) 2021 ballot to the directors who gave approval for him to execute the ballot on behalf of the Cooperative.
- Lisa Graba-Meech, CFO, presented the March financials to the Board. Monthly kWh sales were 7 percent under budget. Energy revenue was 3 percent under budget. March's purchased power expense was 2 percent over budget. Tier is 0.62 and Equity is 43.50.
- The 2020 fiscal year allocation of capital credits was approved as presented.
- Member Services Manager Allison Uselman shared, per the Board's request, the MISO average day pricing for 2018, 2019, and 2020. She will work with Great River Energy (GRE) to put together a MTD report for 2021 moving forward.
- Board Member Mike Thorson gave the GRE report. March financials came in ahead of budget. The GRE Board will hold a strategic planning session in July.
- Board Member Dale Adams gave the STAR Energy report. He reviewed the membership and costs associated with each respectively.
- Board Chair Miles Kuschel discussed the outcome of a recent meeting with the City of Wadena regarding territory boundaries. He also gave a short recap of the legislative meetings that were held in April.

**Daniel Carlisle**  
President/CEO & General Counsel

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Co-op Strong

**Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative** and **West Central Telephone Association** are joining forces to show our appreciation to our members! Join us on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> for a FREE drive-through lunch at the Memorial Forest Park & Campground in Menahga (825 Aspen Ave. SE, Menahga, MN 56464) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches, beans, and a cookie.

# FRIDAY JULY 16

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at  
Memorial Forest  
Park & Campground**

# CO-OP STRONG

STOP BY AND SEE US FOR  
A GREAT LUNCH AND  
MEMBER GIVEAWAY!

THANKS FOR BEING OUR  
MEMBER!



## What is a Cooperative?

**Co-ops are different by definition.** Since the first electric cooperatives were founded after the *Rural Electrification Act* of 1936, local co-ops have been defined by those who own them—people like you who rely on the power the co-op provides. That’s what makes a co-op different from an investor-owned utility, which must answer to outside stockholders who are interested only in profits. Your co-op is a not-for-profit business accountable only to you and the other local members it serves.

**Membership is what you make it.** Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is owned by those we serve- our members. Members have the right to vote in Board of Directors elections and on other issues. Members may attend the co-op’s annual meeting—which is another way your co-op is distinguished from an investor-owned utility. The co-op’s annual meeting is a chance for cooperative members to get together with their local board and make their wishes known.

**Your cooperative is building on the values we’ve shared from the start.** Having a voice makes co-op members more than customers. They’re an integral part of the process by which the cooperative is run. When members pay their electric bills, that money is reinvested in the cooperative for operating capital, necessary reserves, storm damages, construction, and many other general expenses. Members receive a share of any margins remaining after costs are met, known as capital credits.

Capital credit earnings are the members’ share of the net margins of Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative. Over the long-term, those credits are stored, representing your investment in the co-op, and are eventually paid back to members. The decision to refund capital credits rests solely on your board of directors and is dependent on the financial conditions of the cooperative.

## The 7 Cooperative Principles





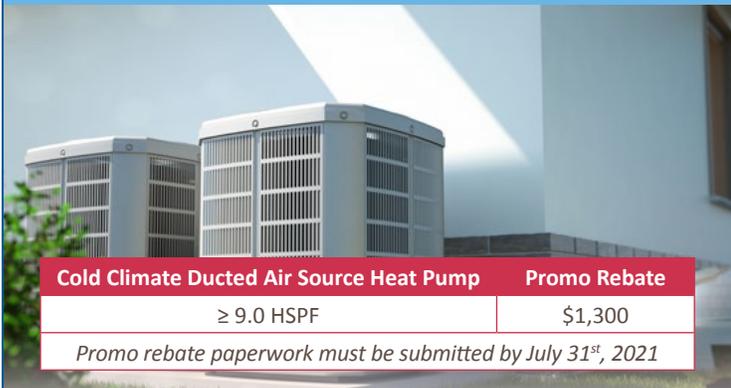
# Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE INCREDIBLE REBATES WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING, ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!



Cold Climate Ducted Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$1,300

*Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

Ducted Air Source Heat Pumps	Regular Rebate
14.5 SEER	\$480
15 SEER	\$580
16 SEER	\$630

*Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

*Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and QI installed. Visit [www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop) to find a QI installer in your area.*



Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump (minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0)	Regular Rebate <sup>2</sup>	Promo Rebate <sup>1</sup>
Delivered fuels *	\$300	\$400
Electric heat **	\$500	\$600

<sup>1</sup>Promo rebate paperwork must be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
<sup>2</sup>Regular rebate paperwork must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

\* Member's main heat source is fuel oil, propane, or natural gas.  
\*\* Member's main heat source is electric.

*Rebates only apply to new systems purchased and installed during rebate timeframe .*

ASHP must be Energy Star Rated

*Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.*

# Three Reasons to Buy an Electric Vehicle

With new options coming out each year offering extended operating ranges and affordable sticker prices, there has never been a better time to own an electric vehicle. While they still account for a small percentage of new vehicle sales in the U.S., there's a compelling case to be made for consumers to consider a full-electric model as their next mode of transportation.

The average driver drives 15,000 miles per year. Given this, if you enrolled on our **EV Storage Rate**, you could energize your vehicle for \$193/year. On the **Time-of-Use Rate** with charging split 70% off-peak, 30% on-peak, the estimated cost to charge your vehicle would come to \$416/year.



## Environmental Benefits

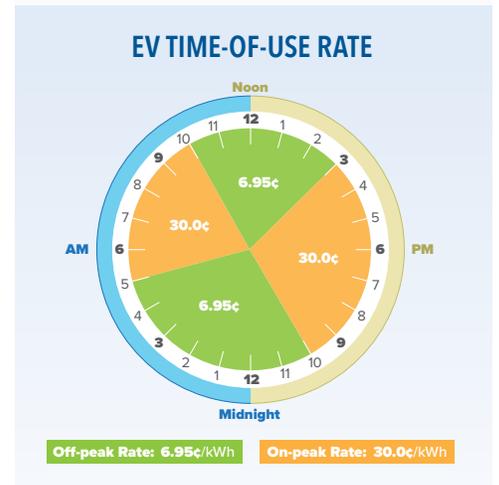
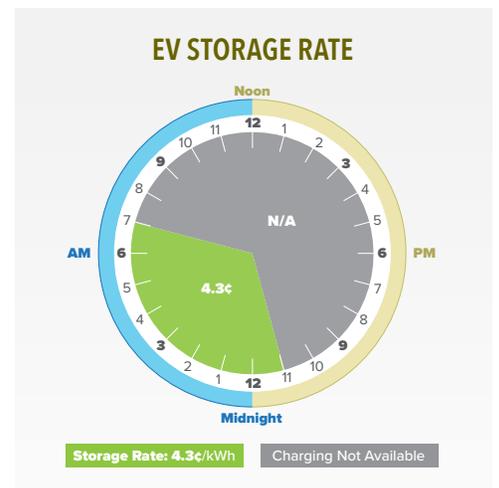
EVs have better environmental attributes than traditional vehicles (even considering the production and disposal of the battery) because of their higher efficiency, lower energy consumption, and lack of tailpipe emissions. Utilities like TWEC and its wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, are producing energy from many renewable sources, including hydro and wind. As the source of electricity gets greener, so does the vehicle.

## Economic Savings

EVs are less expensive to own and operate than a traditional gas-powered vehicle over the long-term. While they can sometimes cost more to purchase, the federal government offers consumers a tax credit of up to \$7,500 to put toward the purchase of most new EVs. A typical EV can travel about 43 miles on \$1 worth of electricity. Also, EVs have fewer moving parts to break down which means they're more reliable than their gasoline-powered counterparts. Very little maintenance is required beyond changing windshield wipers and tires—no more oil changes!

## Convenience

Charge from the convenience of your home with our low EV rates and special rebates on chargers. There are two rate options: a **storage rate** which allows charging only during certain hours; and a **time-of-use rate** which has different rates depending on the time you charge your vehicle. You can also receive a rebate for up to \$800 to offset the cost to install an EV charger controlled on an off-peak rate.



# PLUG IN. CHARGE UP. SAVE BIG.

## Save \$800 on an EV Charger

We're making purchasing an electric vehicle (EV) charger easier than ever! If you're one of the first 200 people to purchase an EV charger from our online store, you'll receive an \$800 discount at the time of purchase. After the first 200 have been claimed, Todd-Wadena offers a \$500 rebate towards installation of an EV charger.

Don't delay! Visit [energywisemnstore.com](http://energywisemnstore.com) today.

## NOTICE: Summer DSM Hours

TWEC and GRE will be adjusting our control periods for summer hours as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 to the following:

- Electric Thermal Storage – Water Heating: Shed Time 9 a.m. – 10 p.m., Monday – Friday. Uncontrolled on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays except for billing peaks (*times are approximate, control schedules at individual receivers will be randomized and staggered by up to 60 minutes*)
- Electric vehicle strategies remain the same
- Year-round ETS – space heating loads remain the same
- Interruptible water heating, heating, and air conditioning will continue to be called upon as needed

## Thank You to All Our Dairy Farmers!

June is **Dairy Month** and we want to take this opportunity to thank our dairy farmers, from the largest operations to the smallest. We want to honor our dairy farmers who work hard 365 days a year to provide us with safe, nutritious dairy products.

Start the summer with nutrient-rich dairy foods! Dairy products such as milk contain *nine essential nutrients*. So let's celebrate dairy, not just in June, but all year long!



## Go Paperless & Get Five!

Enroll in paperless via SmartHub and receive a one-time **credit of \$5.00** to your TWEC account! *New paperless enrollment only. Offer ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.*

## Utility Poles Are Not Bulletin Boards

Think before you post a sign on that pole!

Staples, nails, and tacks used to hang signs and fliers create dangerous obstacles for electric lineworkers.

*Their jobs are dangerous enough – help us keep them safe!*



**New Summer Office Hours**

Our summer office hours are now 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, until September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.



## Pole Top & Bucket Rescue Training

Last month our linemen participated in the annual pole top rescue and bucket rescue training. This training provides our linemen the opportunity to learn and practice methods of rigging and rescuing an injured or incapacitated line worker in an emergency situation from a pole or an aerial bucket. It's the kind of skill we hope we never have to use, but don't want to be without.



## Right-of-Way Maintenance

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative (TWEC) works hard at keeping your electrical power on. One of our biggest struggles, and expenses, is keeping the power line right-of-ways clear of trees and vegetation that can cause power outages. TWEC maintains a minimum of 20 feet horizontal clearance on both sides of the pole line right-of-way. We also remove any leaning or dead trees that may fall or hit the line. We call these “danger trees”.

When TWEC trims and brush mows an area, we come back the following year to spray the stubble and sprouted vegetation. We also side trim trees to get the desired clearance required for reliable and safe electric service—while saving trees.

With 1,800 miles of overhead power lines to maintain, TWEC is asking members to help out. Our goal is to maintain each section of power line approximately once every 10 years.

Members can assist by helping maintain an area that TWEC has already trimmed or brush mowed. We ask that members not plant any trees in the pole line right-of-way and brush mow if you are already mowing near TWEC power line right-of-ways. We will also work with members on removing their trees near our power lines. This will help keep the cost of your electric service down and promote reliable electric service. Thank you for your assistance!

BEFORE

→ AFTER



# Pine to Prairie News

A monthly publication for  
members and friends of



**Todd-Wadena**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

[www.toddwadena.coop](http://www.toddwadena.coop)

**Office Hours:** 7:00am - 3:30pm  
Monday - Friday

**Telephone:** (218) 631-3120 or  
(800) 321-8932

**Email:** [todd-wad@toddwadena.coop](mailto:todd-wad@toddwadena.coop)

**Address:** 550 Ash Avenue NE  
P.O. Box 431  
Wadena, MN 56482

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Miles Kuschel, Chair  
Tom Brichacek, Vice Chair  
Marie Katterhagen, Secretary  
Dale Adams, Treasurer  
Michael Thorson, Director  
Gene Kern, Director  
Kristine Spadgenske, Director

Daniel Carlisle, President/CEO &  
General Counsel

## **LOCAL ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS**

**Todd County:**

Troy Bak (320) 760-1017

**Wadena County:**

Gary Zacharias (218) 631-1392

**District 5 (Todd County):**

Mark Hunter (320) 616-5574

**District 6 (Wadena County):**

Sheldon Monson (218) 689-3260

### **If your electric power goes out:**

First, make sure the problem is not on your side. (*Members may be billed for service calls if the problem is caused by their own equipment.*) Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and by the meter pole. (*Call us for help, if necessary.*)

Second, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. Then call Todd-Wadena to report the problem. Give your name and account number. Then report any tree branches, twisted wires, broken poles, and whether or not your neighbors are also out of power.

### **Before digging call:**

Gopher State One-Call  
811 or (800) 252-1166

Find us on  

[www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/toddwadenaelectriccooperative)  
[www.instagram.com/twec.coop](http://www.instagram.com/twec.coop)

## **Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative**

P.O. Box 431

Wadena, MN 56482

Printed on recycled paper.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
DPC

Find us on 



This month we are doing **yard tool giveaways** on Facebook — so make sure you are following our social media accounts. It will also help you stay up-to-date with the latest information on events, outages, co-op news, and more!

## **READER'S CONTEST**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ controller connects to your Wi-Fi and is all managed through the app.
2. TWEC is owned by those we serve—our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ poles are not bulletin boards.

Name:

Your TWEC Account Number:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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For your chance to be entered in a drawing to **win a \$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your TWEC bill. Mail to TWEC, P.O. Box 431, Wadena, MN 56482. Or email the answers to [mbrservices@toddwadena.coop](mailto:mbrservices@toddwadena.coop) with the subject line "Reader's Contest". Be sure to include your name and TWEC service address. Entries must be received by June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Timothy Kroll of Long Prairie was the winner of our May Reader's Contest.**